

PRESS RELEASE

Friday, February 17, 1967

Following a lengthy Friday morning meeting of the House Armed Services Central Intelligence Agency Subcommittee with CIA's Director, Richard Helms, and others, Mendel Rivers (D.-S.Car.), Chairman of the Subcommittee, and William Bates (R.-Mass.), ranking Minority Member, released the following statement of the Subcommittee:

"We have noted the statement by the leaders of the National Student Association concerning the help the Association has received from the <sup>Agency</sup> Central Intelligence for the purpose of countering Communist domination of foreign student associations throughout the world. It should be emphasized that the sole reason for CIA financial assistance was to provide necessary support for overseas activities by the NSA. It was furnished to the organization to counter communist attempts to take over foreign student organizations by making it possible for American students holding independent views to participate in international meetings.

"Preserving freedom has been and remains the major goal of our Government. It is the keystone of our foreign policy. It is the reason for our being in Vietnam.

"We all know that the Communists, through the use of world-wide front organizations, particularly youth organizations, have made every effort to control people and ideas. It is no secret that since the end of World War II, the Communists concentrated on student organizations throughout the free world and, by 1950, were successful to the point that they had little opposition. Patriotic and worried students in the United States were quick to recognize the situation. Leaders of their organization sought appropriate

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help. It was forthcoming -- and has now served its purpose. Espionage was not involved -- the survival of freedom was.

"We now know that the courage and dedication of American students who participated in international student congresses succeeded in preventing the Communist take-over of many student organizations in the free world.

"The CIA is to be commended for its cooperation. If they had not acted as they did, they would have been derelict in their statutory obligations.

"This program of financial assistance to the National Student Association has been known to every Administration since 1952."